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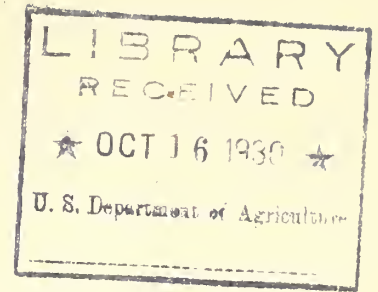
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STEM RUST AND BARBERRY NEWS

Issued by

Office of Barberry Eradication



Volume I

October 10, 1930

Number 11

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Bureau of Plant Industry
U. S. Department of Agriculture

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Beginning with November the Stem Rust and Barberry News will be issued only once a month, on the 25th. During the winter months each number of the News will contain articles devoted to the discussion of subjects relating to some phase of the stem-rust control program. We will try to make each issue interesting and of value to all members of the staff. From time to time we will call upon Leaders for short articles along particular lines in which they are especially well informed. We shall be glad to receive short news items from each of the States concerning work being carried on during the winter. To insure their appearance these notes should reach us by the 12th of each month.

This will be the only issue of the Stem Rust and Barberry News for October. We wish to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the promptness with which the Leaders have contributed items for each issue of the Stem Rust and Barberry News during the season. These items have been of interest to all Leaders and our co-operators and have helped to bring about a closer understanding among the members of the organization.

EPIDEMIOLOGY

(Reported by Miss Laura Hamilton)

Effective October 1, several changes were made in appointments and personnel. Mr. Hines was transferred from a full time appointment to the w.a.e. basis, and will continue with the culture and identification of physiologic forms of stem rust while taking further graduate work. Mr. Walter's appointment was terminated September 30, upon completion of the slide work; and Mr. Allison's w.a.e. appointment also was terminated. In order to continue the research which Mr. Allison has been doing, a request has been made for the reappointment of J. J. Christensen, who has returned to the University from a year's work and travel in Europe. The full time appointment held by Mr. Ukkelberg in addition was transferred to the w.a.e. basis on October 1.

It is planned to make a thorough study of the possibility of infection of southern grain fields by wind borne spores from the North this fall. For a number of years studies have been made of the migration of rust from the South to the North in the spring. There is still a question as to how rust persists in the South during the summer. It seems entirely possible that most of the uredinial material may be killed during the long hot summer. There is a strong possibility, however, that in the late summer and fall "northers" carry large numbers of urediniospores into Oklahoma and Texas. According to Dr. Stakman, the situation therefore may involve a mutual exchange of courtesies between the North and the South. In order to see whether the North is doing its full share in this exchange, Mr. Ukkelberg and Mr. Butler will collaborate in the study of air movements and the spore content of the air in the hope of finding out whether large numbers of urediniospores actually are blown from the Northern States into Texas during the fall.

EASTERN REGIONOhio - 8 East Broad Street, Columbus - Harry Atwood

On September 23 the annual eighth grade school Field Day was held at the Miami County Experiment Farm near Troy. Six hundred pupils and their teachers from the centralized township schools were present. The pupils were conducted, in groups, over the farm through the various plots where the experiments were explained by the workers in charge. The program consisted of talks by Extension Specialists, the County Extension Agent, and the Assistant County Superintendent of Schools.

A barberry exhibit was held at the farm at this time. The Agent in Charge was given fifteen minutes with each group. This time was used in explaining the barberry eradication campaign, teaching them to recognize the common barberry and enlisting the aid of every eighth grade pupil in the hunt for common barberry bushes. At this time the Rust Busters Club was explained. We are hoping that before spring we may have several of these clubs in Ohio.

Recently while scouting for barberries near a contralized school in Elizabeth Township, Miami County, the agents parked their government truck containing a common barberry near the school building. The biology teacher observed the barberry and when agents Giffen and Cowgill returned for the truck she suggested bringing the class out to the truck for a lesson on barberry eradication and black stem rust. The agents report that a very interesting and worth while discussion was conducted at this time.

A few days ago I received the following letter from a youngster at Belleville, Ohio:

Dear Sir:

I know where there are some common barberry bushes. If I get permission from the land owner and destroy them, would I get anything for my work?

Respectfully yours,

This chap will make good Rust Busters Club material.

At the present time we have a squad of four men doing second survey in the rural sections of the northern part of Miami County. During the month of September barberries were found on 51 properties in this county.

Our field force has recently been materially reduced by resignations. Messrs. Stover and Horton have resumed their duties as teachers in the Botany Department of Ohio State University. Messrs. Bauer, Cowgill, Davis, Giffin, Hoff, Roof, and Soler have returned to their studios at Ohio State University. Charles R. Tom has accepted a position with the Trunk Line Freight Inspection Bureau of New York.

Indiana - Agricultural Experiment Station, Lafayette - Wayne E. Leer

A series of four letters to township farm bureau presidents was prepared during the summer. The first of the series was sent out October 3. Accompanying this letter was a letter from William H. Settle, President, Indiana Farm Bureau Federation, indorsing the campaign and encouraging local organizations to make use of the educational materials on barberry eradication. The second letter of the series will be sent out about January 1, the third letter about April 1, and the last letter about July 1.

Several of the leads obtained at the Indiana State Fair have been investigated and in most cases bushes have been found. One of the leads resulted in the finding of six escaped bushes and six planted bushes in Henry County. The field men reported that one of the escaped bushes was the largest escaped bush which they had ever seen. Another lead resulted in the finding of six planted bushes in Blackford County.

In Bartholomew County a bush was found during the past summer which had been planted only a few years. The owner reported that the bush was received as a premium for subscriptions to the Ladies Home Journal and came from a nursery in Ohio. Failure on the part of the owner to find anything in writing regarding the bush made it impossible to get positive information on the case. An almost identical case was found in Fayette County in 1923. These merely call to our attention again one of the problems with which we must deal in the future.

Illinois - Box 72, Post Office Building, Urbana - Robert W. Bills

The second survey of Stephenson County was completed on September 19. About 10 per cent of Lake County remains to be second surveyed and one squad is continuing that work. All of the rural areas will be completed in Lake County this fall, but some of the city work in Lake Forest and Highland Park may remain. One township in Kane County has been second surveyed since the squad left Stephenson County.

Messrs. Davis and Weber are spending about three weeks in Carroll, Whiteside, and Lee Counties on resurvey and reinspection activities in western Illinois to determine the condition of several escaped areas, to control fruiting bushes and to gather information which will be of assistance in formulating survey plans for 1931. Time has not permitted the return to those areas since they were resurveyed in 1923 and 1924. Mr. Davis reported that one area near Sterling now contains approximately 1,000 bushes, many of which are fruiting. The agents are now destroying those bushes. Carroll County was resurveyed and bushes found on only one property. Lee County will be inspected next.

Mr. Matheny resigned on September 19 to accept an extension position with the International Harvester Company of Chicago. Mr. Davis and Mr. Barnes will resign on October 15 to accept similar positions with the same company for the winter months. Mr. Davis will return next year and continue educational and publicity work in Illinois.

Another Rust Buster has joined the ranks. This one qualified as a result of the educational work sponsored in the Jo Daviess County schools this fall. Material was distributed to all of the rural schools at the county institute and this pupil reported a bush and submitted a sample immediately after studying the lessons in school. Mr. Davis will assist in destroying the bush and he will present the medal at the school.

Michigan - Michigan State College, East Lansing - Francis B. Powers

The field force in Michigan has been cut down to one squad with the opening of the fall term of the colleges. Mr. George S. McIntyre, who has acted as assistant leader this summer, has resumed his studies at Michigan State College.

The squad remaining in the field is completing parts of Leelanau County that were inaccessible earlier in the season. Swamps that were previously impossible to scout are now dry enough to enter and are being worked before the fall rains commence. A forested hillside where a development corporation was working is now considerably cleared of underbrush, and roads and lanes have been established making it much easier to scout than it would have been previously.

The men in squads who have had charge of trucks have touched up the rusted spots with paint and have done the necessary draining and removing of batteries before putting them in winter storage.

The Barberry Leader spoke to sixty boys and girls of the Hillsdale County 4-H Clubs at the Hillsdale County Fair in the Club Demonstration Building on September 26. Specimens were shown them and a stereoptican machine was used which of course attracted the attention of many adults as well.

Cooperation with the Office for the Control of White Pine Blister Rust has been beneficial to both campaigns throughout the summer. At the beginning of the season the barberry eradication men learned to recognize the black currant and the blister rust men became familiar with common barberry. Through the barberry office about 8 important black currant locations have been reported, and through the blister rust office 7 barberry locations have been reported. Mr. Mandenberg, State Orchard and Nursery Inspector, has reported several Mahonia locations in the State.

The field men have eradicated 6,998 bushes and 20,320 seedlings since work began in the spring.

WESTERN REGION

Minnesota - University Farm, St. Paul - Leonard W. Melander

On September 27 all but nine of the field men resigned to resume their school work. In addition to these nine, we have added two new men to our force, making a total of eleven for fall work. With this number of men we hope to make considerable progress toward the

completion of the survey of Dakota County and to complete the resurvey of Fillmore County which contains several areas of escaped barberry. In Minnesota during October and early November the conditions for survey are better than at any other season of the year. It is hoped we can arrange our field force so that we can have almost a full crew during these months next year.

Stanley P. Swenson has been selected to carry on the educational work in the rural schools. He will talk to the students in all of the schools in Goodhue County. There are about 160 rural schools in this county. We hope to cover at least three counties in this manner during the fall. In addition, on Fridays and Saturdays he will talk to several teachers' institutes. This intensive school campaign is being carried on more extensively this year because of the success we had in Dakota County last year.

Scott County was finally completed after two week's work. The eastern part of this county was practically all woods and underbrush and took a lot of time to complete. Fortunately no areas of escaped bushes were found in the unsettled part of this county. Nevertheless we found 141 bushes and 135 seedlings on 22 properties in the whole county.

Iowa - Morrill Hall, Iowa State College, Ames - D. R. Shepherd

Sixteen Iowa field men resigned from the work on September 20 to resume their school work at Iowa State College. Only four regular field men remain on the work. Two of these agents are completing the second survey work in Winnebago County and the other two are following up lead slips that have been reported to this office during the summer. After the completion of the check-up work and the second survey work in Winnebago County, these four men will be stationed in Louisa County cleaning up a large escaped area in that place. The plan is to keep these four men on until about the middle of November. Assistant Leader Cassell is carrying on barberry demonstrations at the Waterloo Dairy Cattle Congress. He reports that this year they have been transferred from the Club Building to the Industrial Arts Building and he feels that the new space is much more desirable. This will complete the fair demonstration work in Iowa for the fall of 1930. The fair work has proved to be very much worth while from the standpoint of making contacts, and as a result of this work several tips on barberry plantings have been received.

During the month of September 804 bushes and 915 seedlings were destroyed in the counties where the men were working. These bushes and seedlings were found on a total of 48 properties.

With the active survey work in Iowa practically completed plans are now being made for the educational work which will be carried on this fall. It is the plan to carry on this educational work in the

counties that have been surveyed this summer and in the counties that will probably be surveyed during the coming year. Contacts have been made with county superintendents of schools in this region and they have agreed to distribute the filing cases for us in their respective counties. After the filing cases have been distributed in these counties, Mr. Cassell plans to visit the high schools and present the subject of barberry eradication to the general assembly whenever this is possible. At the same time he plans to make contacts with the Smith-Hughes and Biological classes in the school. Whenever possible he plans also to contact the county agents that are en route and leave with them posters and material pertaining to the subject of barberry eradication.

District No. 1 - State College Station, Fargo, N. Dak. - G. C. Mayoue

Montana - During the past half month survey work has been conducted in the two counties of Fergus and Stillwater. The latter having been completed, the remainder of the field crew is continuing in Fergus with field headquarters at Lewistown.

In Stillwater County's dry land area north of the Yellowstone River very little shrubbery was found around the farms, most of which were located some distance from the main roads. To insure against the possibility of any escaped river areas from old city plantings along the Yellowstone River intensive strip scouting for two miles in each direction was conducted in the vicinity of all river towns. The squad leader for this area reports that the educational activities during the summer made this county much easier to work than Carbon which the same crew surveyed during the early part of the season. Almost without fail when they would begin to interview an owner in Stillwater County he would reply, "Sure, I know what it is. I saw it down to the Fair." "The Fair" being the Billings Midland Empire at which a barberry demonstration was placed during the past season.

In that part of Fergus County where the remainder of the season's field work is being concluded, large wheat farms with very little shrubbery are the rule. In direct contrast with other parts of the State, the county as a whole is quite level, with very few valleys, creeks or streams. Oftentimes as high as fifty per cent of the farms have no shrubs of any description growing in their yards. Obviously, survey in such an area proceeds very rapidly.

In a recent letter from Mr. W. L. Popham he comments on recent finds made in the Judith Basin, saying that he had long suspected bushes somewhere in that area.

Snow fall in the vicinity of Lewistown was noted in a recent weather bulletin.

North Dakota - It often seems that more bushes are found toward the end of the season than at the beginning. At least such has been the case this year, for during the past few weeks several properties have been reported in close succession; and not merely from one region, but from varied points in the State.

After a comparatively fruitless search in McLean County, two agents last week found a 22 year old planting on an abandoned farmstead. Investigation of a report of bushes near Buxton in Traill County revealed that they were escapes, undoubtedly having sprung from bird-scattered seeds in the farmstead grove.

Near Jamestown where a 12 year old Rust Buster found another hedge on an abandoned farmstead; things are still happening. Because of the native growth in the region of the planting, it was decided to cover the immediate area by an intensive survey for escaped bushes. Many small patches of thorn apple and similar bushes dotted the several draws leading to the James River a mile and a half away. Many seedlings dotted the many patches of growth for in practically every one the agents found seedlings from one to four or five years old. Survey of the river bottom proper has not yet begun but the men are looking forward to it with anticipation of finding larger escaped bushes.

The thermometer of Rust Buster activity continues to run high in the Lincoln school, Jamestown, where Rust Buster Marjorie Andres attends the sixth grade. Last Friday she received her medal at a special program. Earlier in the week she had given a short talk to the others in her room, telling them how she found the barberries and why every one should hunt for them. Following this the students wrote short papers on the common barberry bush and why it should be destroyed.

As one reviews the finds that have been made during the past season it becomes apparent that the preliminary survey, hurried as it was, must have been quite thorough. For in the majority of cases, the locations have been on abandoned farmsteads and other spots not included in the first survey.

Northern Wyoming - After the completion of two weeks fair work in Wyoming the agents resumed their survey in Crook County, to the end that two more plantings were located. Several dead plantings that have been found show that at some time in the past the common barberry did gain a degree of popularity as an ornamental plant in Crook County.

District No. 2 - Box 66, State College Station, Brookings, S. Dak. -
Raymond O. Bulger

With the advent of the school season the field force in District No. 2 has been reduced to only four men. Two of these men are working

in Valley County Nebraska, and the other two in Hand County South Dakota. The men have resigned to continue their college work; to take work toward advanced degrees; and to assume teaching positions in both college and high schools.

In general the field work went off smoothly and with better cooperation than usual. In only one case was there any real opposition to the work. Second survey was completed in Buffalo and Howard Counties, Nebraska; and Aurora, Brule, and Buffalo Counties in South Dakota. More than half of Greeley, Sherman, and Valley Counties in Nebraska were also surveyed, while about 10 per cent of Hand County (South Dakota) has been completed to date. Third survey was completed in Davison and Hanson Counties in South Dakota. Barberberries were found in all of these counties except Buffalo County, which is a very open type of territory. Only a few bushes were found on the first survey of this county.

Messrs. Frandsen and Yount, assistant leaders in South Dakota and Nebraska, respectively, are carrying on educational work with rural schools in cooperation with the State Departments of Public Instruction and the county superintendents. Frandsen has scheduled talks at 15 different county institutes. Filing cases are being distributed to the rural teachers in about 40 different counties in the district. The educational material to put in these cases is being held up until the lesson plan is received.

In addition to the work with rural schools, educational activities are being planned with high schools. Talks will be given before the assemblies, the motion picture will be shown, and some instructional work will be carried on with science and biology classes.

A splendid evening meeting was held at Kimball, South Dakota, during September. The Lions Club of this city invited the farmers of the community to come in to the meeting. A good attendance was present and considerable interest was shown regarding the barberry work in that county.

District No. 3 - Agricultural College, Ft. Collins, Colo. - E. A. Lungren

Fall weather conditions in Colorado have been good for field work and we are finishing up our second survey of Douglas County. This should be completed in a week or so and we then expect to start work in Fremont County. We should be able to work up through October in this county as the weather is generally favorable in that section this time of the year. On the original survey in Fremont County we found several hundred barberry bushes and I believe some large escaped areas will be found when we start our second survey. We are also planning to have a

big demonstration at the State Seed Show at Colorado Springs this fall. A follow up report of Mr. Sandhouse, county agent at Brighton, Colorado, located 4 medium sized barberry bushes in Adams County about 20 miles east of Brighton. We also checked over an escaped area west of Loveland, Colorado and found 12 escaped barberry bushes.

Last week (Sept. 22) the District Leader presented two medals to members of the Rust Busters Club at the Big Thompson School in Larimer County. Two boys of the school found two escaped barberries. The principal of the school took all the children out to the property to see the bush. A very good demonstration was given to the children and following this they killed the bush with salt.

The District Leader also talked to the Smith-Hughes class at Loveland on the progress of barberry eradication in the State.

Southern Wyoming - Educational materials have been distributed to all the Smith-Hughes teachers in Wyoming. We are now writing all superintendents for a list of their teachers so that we can get our materials to them soon. The District Leader was in Laramie last week conferring with our cooperators. Plans have been made for teaching our work in the classes of agriculture and pathology in the University.

Western Nebraska - News articles and plates have been mailed to western Nebraska papers in the counties where work was done this season giving them a resume of the season's activities. We are also writing the county superintendents in the counties worked this season for information on superintendents and teachers.

Personal

The following notice has been received from Mr. Mayoue in North Dakota:--

"It is with regret that we must record the untimely death of Mrs. H. L. Bolley, wife of North Dakota's premier Dean of Botany and Plant Pathology. Death occurred in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on August 19, following a paralytic stroke suffered a few days before. Interment followed their return to Fargo September 20.

"Dean Bolley, accompanied by Mrs. Bolley and their daughter, left the United States last June for a year's travel through South America in the interests of flax improvement. This sad misfortune has cut short this trip and as yet Dean Bolley does not know whether or not he will return to complete his project."